Loss due to flood in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal

705. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss of life and property due to floods in the States of Assam, Bihar and West Bengal; and

(b) the funds sought by the respective States to meet the natural calamities and the assistance rendered by the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The total loss of life and property reported by the State Governments are as under:—

State	Loss of property	Human lives lost	Cattle heads lost
1. Assam	408.75	123	70123
2. Bihar	985.91	1026	3727
3. West Bengal	439.93	156	1391

(b) The Central assistance sought by the State Governments and ceilings of expenditure approved for flood relief is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

State	Sought by the State Government	Ceilings of expenditure approved
1. Assam	386.55	62.59
2. Bihar	735.96	86.525
3. West Bengal	264.30	67.776 Being processed.

Crisis in Fertilizer Industry

706. SHRI J. P GOYAL:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the grave economic crisis in the fertiliser industry in the country facing liquidity problems with the total inventories estimated at 3.7 million tonnes of nutrients valued at 1,100 crore;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the fertiliser industry to hold back 40 per cent of its production to facilitate the sale of imported fertilisers adding to the industry's problems; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons thereof stating the manner in which Government propose to ease the situation and to help the industry to tide over its present crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.